

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04613 020933Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /084 W

-----020934Z 033816 /17

R 020915Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4277

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4613

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, KS

SUBJECT: JOINT EFFORTS TO HANDLE COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

1. AT AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM AND AMBASSADOR AGREED TO SET UP INFORMAL JOINT WORKING GROUP TO DEAL WITH BILATERAL COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS. ROKG WILL BE REPRESENTED BY PARK PIL-SOO, ASST MINISTER FOR COMMERCE; CHUNG IN-YONG, ASST MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, MINISTRY OF FINANCE; AND LEE SUN-KI, ASST MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD. EMBASSY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND AID REPRESENTATIVE.
2. WE ENVISAGE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP AS MECHANISM FOR SOLVING DIFFICULT BILATERAL PROBLEMS AT EARLY STAGE BEFORE MAJOR DECISIONS ARE MADE BY ROKG, HAMPERING ULTIMATE SOLUTION.
3. WE HAVE ALONG LIST OF PROBLEMS TO TAKE UP BUT THREE OF THE MOST PRESSING INVOLVING KOREA SPICER (DANA), SHINJIN JEEP (AMC) AND ORLON (DUPONT) WILL BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST MEETING, HOPEFULLY NEXT WEEK.
4. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DPM ACCEPTS THIS METHOD OF DISCUSSING PROBLEMS AS GOOD IN ITSELF AND, MOREOVER, A MEANS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 04613 020933Z

OF REINFORCING HIS REGULAR PROCEDURES, WHICH INVOLVE THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS TAKING ECONOMIC DECISIONS ON THEIR MERITS, RATHER THAN THE MORE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF SETTLING THINGS BASED ON INFLUENCE. THE LATTER IS NO DEADER IN KOREA THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY BUT HAS BEEN SHARPLY CURTAILED IN RECENT YEARS. EMBASSY INFLUENCE, IF BASED ON THE MERITS OF A CASE, WILL CLEARLY MAKE IT

EASIER FOR THE TECHNOCRATS IN GOVERNMENT TO PREVAIL, AND  
JUST MAY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REAL PROBLEM CASES BY  
SOLVING THEM EARLY BEFORE THEY BECOME PAINFUL.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009